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JOINT ECONOMIC COMMITTEE

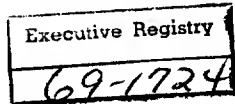
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WASHINGTON, D.C. 20510

March 31, 1969

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Mr. Richard Helms, Director
Central Intelligence Agency
Washington, D. C. 20505

Dear Mr. Helms:

The Joint Economic Committee has undertaken to bring its periodic economic report on the USSR up-to-date by means of a new staff study devoted to a survey, largely quantitative, of the performance record of the national economy during the recent past. In its organizational form, we expect the new study to adhere to the format of the 1968 volume which was titled, as you will recall, "Soviet Economic Performance: 1966-67."

On this occasion, however, the Committee would like to see incorporated in the survey selected economic data and discussion material designed to shed light on some of the specialized tasks performed by the national economy in support of the military programs of the USSR. Tentatively, for the purpose of our own orientation, we might think in terms of a possible sub-title to the study such as "The Role of National Economy in Support of the Defense Sector." To the extent possible, it would be useful to have included in the report discussion material on such topics as military procurement practices, costing procedures, and evidence of competition among the claimants for major capital expenditures in the economy.

We trust that we can receive your cooperation in the present undertaking as we have so often in the past. As soon as you have had time to look into this matter, we would suggest that you designate a member of your staff to work out the specific elements of your contribution with Mr. Leon M. Herman, Legislative Reference Service, Library of Congress, who will serve as coordinator of the study for the Joint Economic Committee.

In view of the current active interest in this subject, the Committee would like to have the contributions in questions on hand for editorial review by about the end of August 1969.

Sincerely,

Hale Boggs

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